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rings is much nearer the Earth than it was a year ago; and the minor axis is therefore much smaller than it was at that time. It is now only about one sixth of the major axis.

Uranus passed opposition with the Sun on June 24th and varies its time of setting from 4 A.M. on July 1st to about midnight on August 31st. It is in *Sagittarius*, a little north and west of the handle of the "milk-dipper" group.

Neptune is a morning object in *Gemini*.

OTTO WILHELM STRUVE.

BY M. NYRÉN.

[The following note on the life of the late OTTO STRUVE has been translated from the original in the *Astronomische Nachrichten* (4013) because it seemed most appropriate to give our readers the words of one who was personally associated with him in the work of the Pulkowa Observatory.

In common with astronomers the world over, we hold the name and work of OTTO STRUVE in high respect and honor.—R. G. A.]

OTTO WILHELM STRUVE, former Director of the Pulkowa Observatory, passed out of this life peacefully at Karlsruhe on the 14th of this month [April, 1905]. Thus closed a life rich in years, in work, in fulfillment. This life belongs to the history of Astronomy, and is inseparably connected with the history of the Pulkowa Observatory.

Born on the 7th of May [25th April], 1819, in Dorpat, where his father, WILHELM STRUVE, held the position of Professor and Director of the University Observatory, OTTO STRUVE completed his course in the gymnasium in his fifteenth year, but, because of his youth, was obliged to wait a year before being matriculated in the university of his native province.

When he took his degree in 1839 he had already been employed in the observatory for two years as his father's assistant. In the mean time the Central Astronomical Observatory for Russia had been founded at Pulkowa under the direction of W. STRUVE, and when it was opened for active work, OTTO STRUVE and three other young scientists, G. FUSS,

E. SABLER, and C. A. F. PETERS, were appointed assistants to the director. This introduced him to the sphere of activity that was to bound his whole life work.

A few years later he was also appointed consulting astronomer to the General Staff and to the Hydrographic Department and, as such, had the opportunity of taking part in work in those lines. Having, in the capacity of astronomer and vice-director, for many years relieved his father of the heavier part of the burden of administering the observatory, he succeeded him as Director in 1862.

In the year 1887 he was therefore able to celebrate two jubilees—in honor of fifty years' service to the State, and of twenty-five years' service as Director. At the close of the year 1889 he resigned the directorate of the observatory and also his membership in the Academy of Sciences, with which he had been connected since 1852. STRUVE had desired to resign a year earlier, but, at the request of the Emperor, Alexander III, that he retain his position until after the celebration of the fifty-year jubilee of the observatory, in August, 1889, was persuaded to postpone his intention. For fully fifteen years, therefore, OTTO STRUVE enjoyed his *otium cum dignitate*, at first in St. Petersburg, and later, for his health's sake, in foreign lands, for the most part in Karlsruhe, where near relatives lived.

He was twice married; first to EMILIE DYRSSEN, of St. Petersburg, and later to EMMA JANKOWSKI, of Livonia. He survived his second wife, also, by many years.

It is not necessary to remind the readers of the *Astronomische Nachrichten* that the astronomical tradition in the STRUVE family did not die out with the first two generations.

The narrow limits of an obituary notice make it impossible to dwell, even briefly, upon the merits of OTTO STRUVE's scientific work. We shall only glance briefly at his work as Director of the observatory, which may be less well known to the world, but which occupied by far the greatest part of his time, and to which he gave his chief attention.

By reason of his personal association for half a century with every development of the institution founded by his father, it grew to be very dear to him, and the youthful zeal with which he devoted every energy to whatever concerned the

reputation and honor of Pulkowa did not forsake him even in his age. Only thus could he have succeeded in doubling, in the course of his directorate, the astronomical staff of the observatory as well as its instrumental equipment.

STRUVE's friendly personal relations with people of all classes aided him greatly in the matter of securing the means needed for these purposes, and he probably never encountered any question as to the propriety of the measures he advocated in any instance. Every one knew that, besides the interest of pure science, STRUVE never left out of sight the prestige of Russia, and especially of Pulkowa. To the sharpened penetration due to this vital interest in the observatory must also be ascribed the fact that he made scarcely a single mistake in the selection of his numerous associates.

In all co-operative undertakings in astronomical and closely related fields STRUVE took a lively interest, and was always ready to offer them all the assistance in his power. In evidence of this we may cite the great zone catalogue undertaken by the *Astronomische Gesellschaft*; the measurement of an arc of longitude in central Europe, of which he was a specially zealous advocate; also the preliminary deliberations concerning the photographic survey of the sky, the international meter commission, etc.

Over many of the conferences called to further these projects he presided as chairman. He served as president of the *Astronomische Gesellschaft*, of which he was a charter member, from 1867 to 1878. The Geodetic Survey of the great Russian empire, in so far as it depended upon the observatory, he advanced to the best of his ability. That geographical researches also appealed to him he proved by participating in the founding of the Imperial Geographical Society of St. Petersburg.

STRUVE provided with a father's care for those connected with the observatory, and could always devise means when needed to improve their material position. He did his utmost, too, to make the social life of our little isolated community as agreeable as possible.

By reason of his active association with other men, foreigners as well as Russians, STRUVE won for himself an unusually large circle of friends. That he did not lack enemies

as well is not to be wondered at, in view of his striking personality. A large number of astronomers from the New World as well as from the Old honored him with visits during his directorate. As a matter of course, the visits from Russians were the most numerous. Nearly all of our professors of astronomy of the last few decades have been graduated from the school of Pulkowa, and at every opportunity have shown their deep, unchanging reverence for the head of the institution in which they began their scientific work.

PULKOWA, April, 1905.
